

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MATSUMURA et al.)
S.N.: 09/761,043)
Filed: January 15, 2001) Examiner: Daniel S. Metzmaier
Confirmation No: 4250) Art Unit: 1712
For: COLLOIDAL SILICA SLURRY)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION BY FACSIMILE (37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I hereby certify that the herein below **COMMENTS REGARDING US 6626967** is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (FAX No. 571-273-1089) on January 9, 2004.


Dennis G. LaPointe

COMMENTS REGARDING US 6626967

Examiner Daniel S. Metzmaier
Art Unit: 1712

Dear Examiner Metzmaier:

Thank you for providing Applicant an opportunity to comment regarding pertinent art (non-prior art) U.S. Patent No. 6,626,967.

The '967 patent contains ammonium bicarbonate as an indispensable component.

By compounding ammonium bicarbonate, the method in the '967 patent can prevent aggregation of silica particles and increase dispersion stability of colloidal silica. However, it has already been disclosed in an official gazette of Tokukai 2001-20087.

Further, with regard to the content of the impurity metal, the present invention is "1 ppm or less", and the '967 patent is "at most 100 ppb."

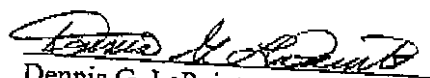
However, this is not a true difference, because the difference comes from a measuring method of the impurity metal, which has been improved year by year.

Furthermore, the application date of the '967 patent is October 30, 2002 and its priority date is October 31, 2001. The application date of the present invention is January 15, 2001 and its priority date is August 4, 2000. Therefore, the '967 patent is not prior art to the present invention as it was filed nearly 14 months after the filing of the present invention.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

Dated: 1-9-04


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